GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5454
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2007
TV CHANNELS
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of television channels operating as on date in the country;

(b) the number of proposals seeking permission to uplink their TV channels from India pending with the Government as on date;

(c) the criteria fixed for granting permission for such uplinking;

(d) whether the Government has any mechanism to monitor programmes which are generated outside India and are shown through cable television network within the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the steps taken by the Government to check such programmes in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI)

(a) : As on 30.4.2007, the Ministry has permitted 222 private satellite TV channels to uplink from India and 6 TV channels uplinked from abroad have also been permitted to downlink in India. In addition to this, 54 foreign TV channels have been provisionally permitted to downlink in India.

(b) : The proposals of 71 private satellite TV channels for permission to uplink from India are at various stages of scrutiny in accordance with the existing uplinking guidelines.

(c) : The criteria for grant of permission to uplink private satellite TV channels are prescribed under the Guidelines for Uplinking from India which are available on the Ministry's website (http://www.mib.nic.in).

(d) to (f): All programmes of satellite TV channels transmitted or re-transmitted through cable service are required to adhere to the provisions of the Programme/Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The channels are required to keep a record of programmes downlinked for a period of 90 days and to produce the same before any agency of the Government as and when required, as prescribed under the downlinking guidelines. Government has also sanctioned setting up of Electronic Media Monitoring Centre to monitor contents of satellite TV channels.